

Appl. No. 09/935,088  
Amdt. dated Sept. 12, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of June 13, 2003

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

In this invention, at least one layer having a mixture of polymeric fibers, ~~superabsorbent in an amount between 1 and 80 weight percent and binder in an amount between 1 and 6 weight percent (based on the fiber and binder weight), and superabsorbent in an amount between 1 and 80 weight percent (based on the fiber and binder weight)~~ is provided. More particularly, amounts of superabsorbent between 25 and 75 weight percent and still more particularly between 40 and 60 percent may be beneficial. Additional layers may be present as well and the inventive layer may be placed in a personal care product to act as a distribution and absorption layer. The inventive layer has good distribution properties, presumably due to the avoidance of gel blocking, capillary disruption and wet collapse, by virtue of the discrete placement of the superabsorbent. It is also possible to electrically treat the web of this invention to improve particle adherence.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The fabric used in the practice of this invention may have natural fibers, though webs of synthetic polymer fibers are preferred. An effective amount of binder, typically from 1 to 6 weight percent (based on the web weight before addition of superabsorbent), may be present to help provide mechanical integrity by binding the fibers and particles together. The binder may more particularly be between 1 and 5 percent and still more particularly between 1 and 4 percent. As much as 80 percent by weight of the fibers and binder web may be added as superabsorbent. A more particular range for the superabsorbent is between 25 and 75 weight percent and still more particularly between 40 and 60 weight percent.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

A 0.4 osy (13.6 gsm) polypropylene web composed of 3.5 denier fibers was made according to the spunbonding process, bonded with a diamond EHP pattern and creped 25 percent producing micro-pockets with a volume of ~~[[0.661]]~~ 0.992 cubic mm each. This material had a basis weight after creping of 0.5 osy (17 gsm) and was tumbled to add superabsorbent particles up to a 36 percent loading by weight on a dry basis. The permeability of the dry, (unswollen) composite web was 2000 darcys, according to the test method above. The fluid used for the testing was a mineral oil having a viscosity of 8 Pascal/sec and sold under the trade name PENETECK®. A sample of the composite web was placed in a large volume of 0.9 weight percent

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saline solution for sufficient time (approx. 20 minutes) to swell approximately to equilibrium. The swollen web was removed from the saline solution bath, dried on its surface, and tested for permeability in the same manner as the unswollen web. The permeability of the fully swollen composite web was 2060 darcys.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

As can be seen from the Table above, the Examples had high permeabilities and maintained their permeabilities well upon being wetted.